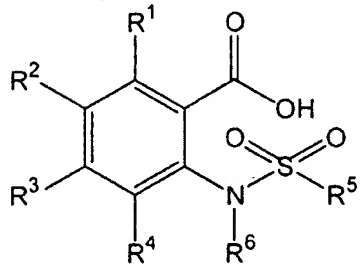
IN THE CLAIMS

1 (cancelled)

2 (cancelled)

3 (currently amended): A compound of formula (III)



(III),

or a therapeutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_2-C_4 alkenyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, ~~haloalkyl, haloakoxy~~[[,]] R_aR_bN- and $R_aR_bN$alkoxy, wherein R_a and R_b are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of alkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, alkylsulfanyl, alkylsulfanylalkyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylsulfonylalkyl, amino, aminoalkyl, cycloalkyl[[,]] and (cycloalkyl)alkyl[[,]] ~~haloalkoxy, and haloalkyl~~;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen[[,]] and alkyl ~~and halogen~~;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkenyl, alkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylsulfanyl, alkylsulfanylalkyl, carboxy, cyano, cyanoalkyl, cycloalkyl, (cycloalkyl)alkyl, ~~haloalkoxy, haloalkyl~~[[,]] heteroaryl, heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl, heterocyclealkenyl, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, nitro, phenyl, phenylsulfonyl, $R_{c4}R_{d4}N$-, $R_{c4}R_{d4}N$alkyl, $R_{c4}R_{d4}N$alkenyl, $R_{c4}R_{d4}N$alkynyl, $R_{c4}R_{d4}N$alkoxy, $R_{c4}R_{d4}N$alkoxycarbonyl, $R_{c4}R_{d4}N$carbonyl, $R_{c4}R_{d4}N$cycloalkyl, $R_{c4}R_{d4}N$alkylcycloalkyl, $R_{c4}R_{d4}N$(cycloalkyl)alkyl, $R_{c4}R_{d4}N$sulfinyl, $R_{e4}R_{f4}N$alkyl(R_{c4})N-, $R_{e4}R_{f4}N$alkyl(R_{c4})Ncarbonyl, $R_{e4}R_{f4}N$alkyl(R_{c4})Ncarbonylalkenyl, $R_{e4}R_{f4}N$alkylcarbonyl(R_{c4})N-, $R_{e4}R_{f4}N$alkoxycarbonyl(R_{c4})N-, $R_{c4}R_{d4}N$alkylsulfanyl, $R_{c4}R_{d4}N$alkylsulfinyl, $R_{c4}R_{d4}N$alkylsulfonyl, $R_{g4}R_{j4}N$alkyl(R_{e4})Ncarbonyl(R_{c4})N-; wherein the phenyl group, the phenyl group of phenylsulfonyl, the heteroaryl, the heterocycle, the heterocycle of

heterocyclealkyl, the heterocycle of heterocyclealkenyl may be optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of alkoxy, alkyl, cyano[[,]] ~~haloalkoxy, haloalkyl~~[[,]] and nitro; and wherein R_{c4},R_{d4}, R_{e4}, R_{f4}, R_{g4} and R_{j4} are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxyalkyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, aminoalkyl, cycloalkyl, (cycloalkyl)alkyl, heterocycle and phenyl, or each individual pair of R_{c4} and R_{d4}, or R_{e4} and R_{f4}, or R_{g4} and R_{j4} taken together with the nitrogen atom they are each attached form a heterocycle;

R^5 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, amino, aminoalkyl, aryl, arylalkenyl, arylalkyl, ~~haloalkyl~~[[,]] heteroaryl, heteroarylalkenyl, heteroarylalkyl, heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl and heterocyclealkenyl, wherein aryl, the aryl group of arylalkenyl, the aryl group of arylalkyl, the heteroaryl, the heteroaryl of heteroarylalkenyl, the heteroaryl of heteroarylalkyl, and the heterocycle of R^5 may be optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkenyl, alkoxy, alkoxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylsulfonyl, aminoalkyl, phenyl, phenylsulfonyl, carboxy, cyano, cyanoalkyl, ~~haloalkoxy, haloalkyl~~[[,]] heteroaryl, heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl, heterocyclealkenyl, hydroxy, nitro, $R_{c5}R_{d5}N$-, $R_{c5}R_{d5}N$alkyl, $R_{c5}R_{d5}N$alkenyl, $R_{c5}R_{d5}N$alkynyl, $R_{c5}R_{d5}N$alkoxy, $R_{c5}R_{d5}N$alkoxycarbonyl, $R_{c5}R_{d5}N$carbonyl, $R_{c5}R_{d5}N$cycloalkyl, $R_{c5}R_{d5}N$alkylcycloalkyl, $R_{c5}R_{d5}N$cycloalkylalkyl, $R_{c5}R_{d5}N$sulfinyl, $R_{e5}R_{f5}N$alkyl(R_{c5})N-, $R_{e5}R_{f5}N$alkyl(R_{c5})Ncarbonyl, $R_{e5}R_{f5}N$alkyl(R_{c5})Ncarbonylalkenyl, $R_{e5}R_{f5}N$alkylcarbonyl(R_{c5})N-, $R_{e5}R_{f5}N$alkoxycarbonyl(R_{c5})N-, $R_{c5}R_{d5}N$alkylsulfanyl, $R_{c5}R_{d5}N$alkylsulfinyl, $R_{c5}R_{d5}N$alkylsulfonyl, $R_{g5}R_{j5}N$alkyl(R_{c5})Ncarbonyl(R_{c5})N-; wherein the phenyl group, the phenyl group of phenylsulfonyl, the heteroaryl, the heterocycle, the heterocycle of heterocyclealkyl, the heterocycle of heterocyclealkenyl may be optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of alkoxy, alkyl, cyano[[,]] ~~haloalkoxy, haloalkyl~~[[,]] and nitro; and wherein R_{c5}, R_{d5}, R_{e5}, R_{f5}, R_{g5} and R_{j5} are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxyalkyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, aminoalkyl, cycloalkyl, (cycloalkyl)alkyl, heterocycle and phenyl; and

R^6 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkylsulfanylalkyl, aryl, and arylalkyl.

4 (cancelled)

5 (cancelled)

6 (cancelled)

7 (cancelled)

8 (cancelled)

9 (cancelled)

10 (cancelled)

11 (cancelled)

12 (cancelled)

13 (cancelled)

14 (cancelled)

15 (cancelled)

16 (cancelled)

17 (cancelled)

18 (cancelled)

19 (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 3 or a therapeutically acceptable salt thereof in combination with a therapeutically acceptable carrier.

20 (cancelled)

21 (cancelled)

22 (previously presented): A compound of claim 3 selected from the group consisting of

5-ethyl-2-[(phenylsulfonyl)amino]benzoic acid,

5-isopropyl-2-[(phenylsulfonyl)amino]benzoic acid,

5-isobutyl-2-[(phenylsulfonyl)amino]benzoic acid,

2-[(phenylsulfonyl)amino]-5-propylbenzoic acid,

5-cyclopentyl-2-[(phenylsulfonyl)amino]benzoic acid,

5-cyclohexyl-2-[(phenylsulfonyl)amino]benzoic acid,

5-butyl-2-[(phenylsulfonyl)amino]benzoic acid,

5-(3-methylbutyl)-2-[(phenylsulfonyl)amino]benzoic acid,

5-(2-methylbutyl)-2-[(phenylsulfonyl)amino]benzoic acid,

5-pentyl-2-[(phenylsulfonyl)amino]benzoic acid,

5-(2-ethylbutyl)-2-[(phenylsulfonyl)amino]benzoic acid,

5-hexyl-2-[(phenylsulfonyl)amino]benzoic acid,

5-ethyl-2-{[(3-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}benzoic acid,

5-ethyl-2-{[(3-fluorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino}benzoic acid,

2-{[(2-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino}-5-ethylbenzoic acid,

2-{[(3,4-difluorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino}-5-ethylbenzoic acid,

5-ethyl-2-({[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]sulfonyl}amino)benzoic acid,

5-ethyl-2-{[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}benzoic acid,

2-{[(3-cyanophenyl)sulfonyl]amino}-5-ethylbenzoic acid,

2-{[(4-cyanophenyl)sulfonyl]amino}-5-ethylbenzoic acid,

2-{[(2,5-dimethylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}-5-ethylbenzoic acid,

5-ethyl-2-{[(3-methoxyphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}benzoic acid,

2-{[(2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}-5-ethylbenzoic acid,

5-ethyl-2-({[2-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]sulfonyl}amino)benzoic acid,

5-ethyl-2-({[2-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]sulfonyl}amino)benzoic acid and

2-({[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]sulfonyl}amino)-5-ethylbenzoic acid.